

# Senator stops for lunch

SENATOR, from Page 1

around but it's not working," he said.

Roberts, as chairman of the Agricultural Committee, said the ag bill passed in 2 1/2 days and included very good crop insurance.

He said it is time to do something about the national debt and not wait until it was an emergency to get something done.

The existing tax code is 10 years old, he said. The estate tax could go to 55 percent.

"We need to repeal it," Roberts said, "so businesses can be turned over to the next generation. We need a simpler tax code."

"It's time to get off the sidelines. Our kids and grandkids' future is on the line. I fear that our legacy in American won't be there for our children and grandchildren."

He emphasized that the election in November would be important and that this was a cross roads election.

Roberta Bretz asked about the United Nations Arms Treaty.

"It's an infringement on our national sovereignty," said Roberts. "It's not going to happen on my watch."

Economic Development Director Michael Solomon asked about the lack of public transportation such as air.

"I do not know the answer for that," he said.

"We have all the government we can handle," Roberts said in closing. "It's time to turn the ship around."

The food for the luncheon was locally produced and came from some of the Goodland Farmers Market producers. The buffalo brats were provided by Ken Klemm of the Buffalo Guys. Jenifer Sanderson made the potato salad and potato chips from locally grown potatoes. Cantaloupe, apples, onions and peppers were grown by Larry Keirns, Kay Melia and Marty Melia.

# Kidnapped witness makes escape here

WITNESS, from Page 1

killed Lemma and Desta because they "disrespected him." The couple had owned a restaurant in Dallas. Girma told the witness that he followed them home and confronted them on the porch of their residence, and that when they continued to disrespect him, he shot them.

The witness said Girma showed him the pistol and then in-

timidated him into driving to Kansas, where he was able to get away and call police. The witness was shown a photograph of Girma and positively identified him as the man who admitted to the murders.

The television show "The First 48" has reportedly been in Goodland to interview the witness for a future episode. "The First 48," is a show that goes behind-the-scenes with detectives during the first two days after a murder.

# Fire may have been largest in county history

FIRE, from Page 1

vices, the Thomas County Sheriff's Department, the National Weather Service and the American Red Cross.

There was also one plane that dropped a load of water on the fire. James said nobody knows who the plane belonged to, and the first he knew of it was when it flew over

his head. Unfortunately, he said, the blast from the plane's propeller actually helped the fire flare up in one area.

Ambulances were standing by in several locations, but no one was hurt in the fire, James said, aside from one firefighter's cut hand. Several vehicles received minor damage, he said, such as blown tires or dented bumpers from the tight ravines.

James said light damage is normal when fighting a fire in that type of terrain. One outbuilding was burned to the ground.

The only real problem of the night was communication. James said the radio repeater kept going down, which made it difficult to coordinate firefighting units. However, Murray brought down some 800 megahertz radios, which helped.

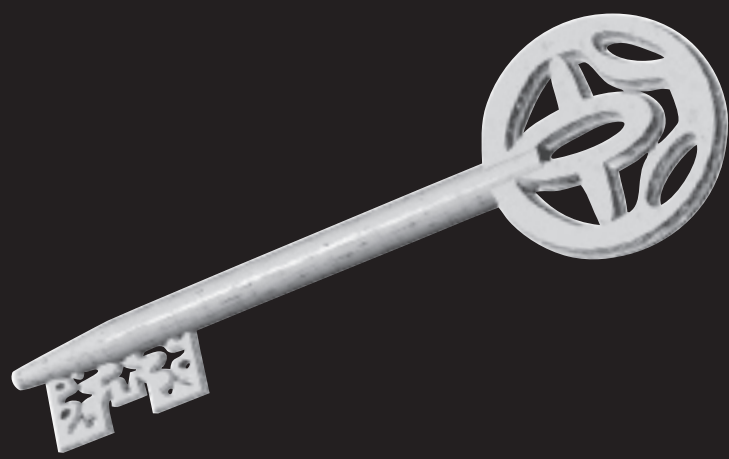
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